United Nations S/2018/1082

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 December 2018

Original: English

Identical letters dated 4 December 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Earlier this morning, the Israel Defense Forces launched an operation to locate and neutralize cross-border assault tunnels penetrating Israeli territory from Lebanon, built by Hizbullah, an internationally designated terror organization.

The construction of these tunnels, built by Hizbullah and funded by Iran — alongside the ongoing efforts to transfer arms, convert inaccurate projectiles into precision-guided missiles and manufacture precision-guided missiles in Lebanon — is a flagrant violation of Israel's sovereignty and marks yet another stage of Hizbullah's ongoing efforts to expand its military build-up and further destabilize the already volatile region.

Hizbullah, the Iranian proxy in Lebanon, is advancing an Iranian agenda to turn southern Lebanon into a launching pad for attacks that threaten the lives of innocent Israelis, while endangering Lebanon and its citizens.

The tunnel project constitutes an ongoing blatant violation of Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 1701 (2006), 1559 (2004), 2373 (2017) and 2433 (2018). Israel holds the Government of Lebanon responsible for these violations.

Since this morning, Israel has been conducting defensive engineering measures south of the Blue Line in Israeli territory. This operation is intended to neutralize the cross-border assault tunnels emanating from Lebanese territory. While Israel is not interested in any escalation, it will take all necessary measures to defend its sovereignty and its citizens.

I call upon the Security Council to condemn Hizbullah immediately and in the strongest terms for constructing these assault tunnels and to hold the Government of Lebanon responsible for this dangerous destabilization of the region.

The Security Council must call upon Lebanon to abide by its international commitments and fully implement the above-mentioned Security Council resolutions, especially regarding the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias and the establishment of an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon between the Blue Line and the Litani River.

This ongoing violation is yet another expression of Iran's malign regional activities aimed at Israeli civilians and should be condemned in the harshest terms.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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